

The rejection under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) overlooks specific recitations in independent claims 1 and 11 that clearly distinguish the inventions of these claims from Viertel et al., relied upon in the rejection.

Claim 1 recites, *inter alia*, that when the shank is inserted into the through-hole the arms rotate together with the levers outwardly of the shank from the initial posture to an interposed posture.

Referring to Fig. 7 of Applicant's drawings, merely by way of example, the arms 13 and the levers 14 rotate outwardly of the shank from the initial posture, as is apparent from the arrows 33. In Viertel et al., the arms 10 rotate outwardly, but the levers 11 rotate inwardly, as is apparent from a comparison from Figs. 2 and 3.

Similarly, claim 11 recites that the arms and the levers rotate outwardly of the shank to the interposed posture, unlike Viertel et al.

Furthermore, claim 11 recites that in the interposed posture, the levers contact one side of the sheet member (the flange side). It is apparent in Fig. 3 of Viertel et al. that levers 11 do not contact one side of the sheet member.

Accordingly, claims 1 and 11 and the claims dependent thereon should be allowed.

This application is now clearly in condition for allowance.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge to Deposit Account No. 50-1165 any fees under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16 and 1.17 that may be required by this paper and to credit any overpayment to that Account. If any extension of time is required in connection with the filing of this paper and has not been requested separately, such extension is hereby requested.

Respectfully submitted,

NHS:kss

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